

Miscellaneous Notes

1. MUTUAL ASSISTANCE BETWEEN MOTHER LANGURS [*PRESBYTIS ENTELLUS* (DUFRESNE)]

On 10 February 1960 at Jaipur I was watching a small troop of Langurs, *Presbytis entellus* (Dufresne), consisting of one full-grown male, five full-grown females, and five babies. I was surprised to see that one of the females (No. 1) was carrying two babies. The troop settled on the roof of a near-by house and one of the two babies was passed on to another female (No. 2), who immediately suckled it. The langurs were disturbed by the occupants of the house, whereupon female No. 1 took the baby from female No. 2 and scampered away with both the babies clinging to her breast. I noticed that female No. 2 ran on three legs; the left forelimb was pressed against her breast and appeared to be badly injured. The troop again came to rest and the young one immediately came to its real mother and started sucking. This 'handing over' and 'taking over' was observed several times in the course of two and a half hours. The other three females took no part in looking after the baby.

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2. THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE CARACAL (*FELIS* *CARACAL* SCHREBER)

Sen (*J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 56 : 317) and Srivastava (*ibid.* 57 : 214) have reported observing the caracal at Hazaribagh (Bihar), Sariska (Rajasthan), and Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh). While surveying the Rajasthan desert for mammal studies in 1954, I saw a caracal skin with a *Sansi* (local tribesman) who refused to sell it at any price. He said that he had captured and killed it at Bikaner but, during our study, we did not collect any specimen of caracal from the Bikaner region. Adams (1899, WESTERN RAJPUTANA STATES: 170, Taylor & Francis) states 'The red lynx (*Felis caracal*) . . . are fairly numerous in

these states'. Pocock (1939, FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA, MAMMALIA 1 : 309) speaks of its rarity and suggests that in all probability it will follow the fate of the Cheetah, *Acinonyx jubatus*, unless strict measures can be enforced for its protection. One of my shikari friends tells me that caracal are still found in fair numbers in the Bundi region of Rajasthan.

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3. THE SENSES OF THE TIGER

On a former occasion (1951, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 49 : 732) the present writer reported an instance of a tiger winding the presence of a man at 50 yards. Here is a personal experience which affords evidence of the tiger using his nose, and of his remarkable keenness of vision.

On the morning of 22 March 1928 in the Central Provinces it was found that a large tiger had killed my tethered buffalo calf, broken the wire rope, and taken the kill about 200 yards, the latter part through lantana. The only available tree was leafless. By 2.30 p.m. a chair-machan was fixed on it, and screened all round and below with leafy branches. Towards dusk the tiger uttered a 'woof' to scare any intruder. Then came the shrill alarm call of a cock junglefowl. Next I heard him using his nose—loud sniffs. He came to my left and below me. More sniffs. Then he went away and began a 'grumbling' approach along the drag of the kill, through the lantana. He was hungry. Now arrived the last glimmer of daylight.

I had tethered the kill fore and aft so as to afford a sideways shot. The electric-light box was suitably placed. My loophole was screened by a khaki handkerchief tied at three corners with the lower right hand corner secured by a large pin readily removable. The arms of the chair, the shooting-bar, and the footrest were all padded with khaki woollen putties. The seat of the chair had a leather cushion. No movement of mine could make any sound. There was no breath of air. Wanting to watch the tiger, I lifted a very small corner of the pinned handkerchief. He must have had his eyes lifted upwards as he crept along, for he instantly uttered a frightened 'woof' and